



SNSY-A2001-007

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PATENT

#21A
Bell
1180

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: R. Donelly et al.

Serial: 10/016,232 Group Art Unit:

Filed: December 6, 2001 Examiner:

For: MULTIPLE PASS OPTIMIZATION FOR AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT PLACEMENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit the following preliminary amendment for filing in the above captioned patent application. Applicants respectfully request that this preliminary amendment be entered into the above captioned patent application before examination thereof.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amendments:

- b
5/6 A1
1. (Once Amended) A method for placing circuit elements on an integrated circuit comprising: